

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (cancelled).
2. (cancelled).
3. (cancelled).
4. (re-presented - formerly dependent claim 7) A method for providing secure transmissions in a telecommunications network comprising the steps of:
 - establishing a route from an originating network node to a terminating network node;
 - determining whether at least a portion of the route includes a link that does not send or receive private or encrypted information or that uses facilities not absolutely controlled by a network provider; and
 - responsive to the step of determining whether at least a portion of the route includes said link and prior to connection to said terminating network node, providing an alert of a security status of the route to a calling party using the originating network node

- issuing the alert when a previously secure route becomes insecure; and
 - wherein providing the alert includes issuing a message on an identification display associated with one of a station associated with the terminating network node and the calling party.
5. (original) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:
 - completing a call after the alert has been provided.
6. (previously amended) The method of claim 4 wherein providing the alert includes issuing a distinctive ring at a station associated with the terminating network node.
7. (cancelled).
- 8 – 9. (cancelled).
10. (previously amended) The method of claim 4 wherein providing the alert includes providing an audible voice message.

11. (previously amended) The method of claim 4 wherein providing the alert includes using an audible tone.

12. (previously amended) The method of claims 10 or 11 wherein providing the alert includes providing a periodic alert.

13. (cancelled).

14. (previously amended) The method of claim 4 wherein providing the alert includes a query screen on a personal computer.

15 – 17.(cancelled).

18 - 24. (cancelled).

25. (previously amended) A method for providing secure transmissions in a telecommunications network comprising the steps of:

- a. establishing a route from a calling party to a called party;
- b. determining whether at least a portion of the route includes a link that does not send or receive private or encrypted information or that uses facilities not absolutely controlled by a network provider;
- c. responsive to a positive result in said determining step, further determining whether a secure connection may be established between said calling party and said called party; and
- d. responsive to a positive result in said determining step and a negative result in said further determining step, providing an alert of a nature of the route to said calling party;
- e. responsive to a positive result in said determining step and a negative result in said further determining step, establishing a new route between said calling party and said called party.

26. (previously amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said telecommunications network includes at least one intermediate node in said route from said calling party to said called party, and wherein step c. thereof further comprises the step of:

transmitting a message including a security status request through each of said at least one intermediate node.

27. (previously amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said telecommunications network includes at least one intermediate node in said route from said calling party to said called party, and wherein step c. thereof further comprises the step of:

for each of said at least one intermediate node, if such node is insecure, receiving a message indicating such node is insecure.

28. (previously amended) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of:

f. establishing a secure connection between said calling party and said called party.

29. (previously amended) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of:

e. establishing a connection between said calling party and said called party despite a determination that a secure connection cannot be established.

30. (previously amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said alert is provided to said calling party, and the method further comprises the steps of:

e. receiving authorization from said calling party, after said calling party has received said alert, to maintain a connection between said calling party and said called party.

31. (previously amended) The method of claim 25 wherein said alert is provided to said calling party, and further comprises the steps of:

f. receiving authorization from said calling party, after said calling party has received said alert, to establish a connection between said calling party and said called party over the new route.

32. (cancelled).